

## *A Message From The Commandant Of The Marine Corps*



The Marine Corps embraces the new century with confidence; poised to meet both the crises of today and the challenges of tomorrow. The clear lesson of the past is that this focus on current and future requirements is essential if the Corps is to continue to fulfill its broad responsibilities.

Our recently released Vision Statement provides a clear articulation of goals and corresponding priorities to ensure our continued readiness. Affecting all elements of our Corps, the vision has given renewed momentum to our efforts to continuously transform to meet evolving national security needs.

While the Corps will adapt – just as it always has – to a changing environment, the quality and fidelity of the individual Marine will remain constant. Marines are the essential wherewithal with which the Corps accomplishes its assigned missions. Their flexibility, strength of character, and warfighting abilities are the keys to our success. Accordingly, the focus of our programs is to enhance their battlefield effectiveness by providing them the necessary tools to enable them to succeed. This “equip the man, not man the equipment” philosophy has long been at the center of our programmatic efforts.

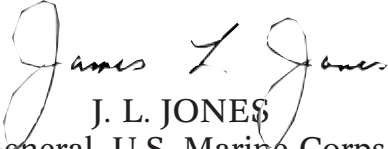
For much of the last decade the Corps was compelled to slow the pace of modernization in order to maintain current readiness. It was a problem not specific to the Corps, as all of the Armed Forces faced the same challenge in an era of reduced budgets and increased operational commitments. While recent budget increases have helped, we still struggle to modernize after the long “procurement holiday.” Replacing our old and worn out systems is an absolute priority.

Integral to our focus on our Marines is the realization that their morale and readiness hinge on their quality of life and that of their families. Consequently, many of our initiatives are intended to strengthen this critical aspect of our Corps. The ongoing fiscal challenges we face have not left these efforts untouched, especially the recapitalization of our infrastructure.

***Concepts and Issues 2001*** articulates our modernization requirements—presenting an overview of our plans to give Marines the best our nation can provide. It offers a “once across the Corps” perspective that includes a description of our conceptual view of warfighting, an overview of the operations of the past year, and an examination of the specific programs that will provide our Marines technologically superior weapons, platforms, systems and equipment.

Just as it has been since 1775, the Marine Corps remains prepared to fulfill its role in the pursuit of America's national security. Accordingly, ***Concepts and Issues 2001*** expresses our goals and priorities to ensure our continued readiness.

Semper Fidelis,

  
J. L. JONES  
General, U.S. Marine Corps